

Convex Optimization

Lijun Zhang

Nanjing University, China

December 24, 2017

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Convex Optimization Problems
- 3 Duality
- 4 Optimization Methods

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Convex Optimization Problems
- 3 Duality
- 4 Optimization Methods

Mathematical Optimization

■ Optimization Problem [Boyd and Vandenberghe, 2004]

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & f_0(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_d]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$: optimization variable
- $f_0 : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$: objective function
- $f_i : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}, i = 1, \dots, n$: constraint functions

■ Optimal Solution

$$\{\mathbf{x}_* | f_0(\mathbf{x}_*) \leq f_0(\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega\}$$

where $\Omega = \{\mathbf{x} | f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, n\}$

Least-squares

■ The Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} f_0(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{x} - b_i \right)^2 = \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$$

- $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$
- $\mathbf{b} = [b_1, \dots, b_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n$

■ Solving Least-squares

- Analytical solution: $\mathbf{x}_* = (\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{b}$
- Reliable and efficient algorithms and software
- Computation time proportional to $d^2 n$
- A mature technology

Linear Programming

■ The Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{x} \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_d]^\top$: optimization variable
- $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{R}$: parameters

■ Solving Linear Programs

- No analytical formula for solution
- Reliable and efficient algorithms and software
- Computation time proportional to d^2n if $n \geq d$
- A mature technology

Convex Optimization Problem

■ The Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & f_0(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

- Objective and constraint functions are convex:

$$f_i(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f_i(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f_i(\mathbf{y})$$

if $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$

■ Solving Convex Optimization Problems

- No analytical solution
- Reliable and efficient algorithms
- Almost a technology

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Convex Optimization Problems
- 3 Duality
- 4 Optimization Methods

Convex Set

■ Line Segment between $\mathbf{x}_1$ and $\mathbf{x}_2$

$$\mathbf{x} = \theta \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{x}_2, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$$



Convex Set

■ Line Segment between $\mathbf{x}_1$ and $\mathbf{x}_2$

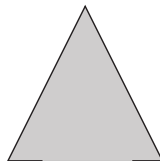
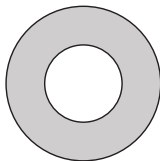
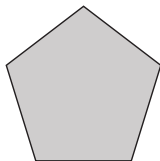
$$\mathbf{x} = \theta \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{x}_2, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$$



Convex Set

A set $\mathcal{C}$ is convex if the line segment between any two points in $\mathcal{C}$ lies in $\mathcal{C}$.

$$\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathcal{C}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 1 \Rightarrow \theta \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathcal{C}$$



Convex Functions

Convex Functions

A function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is convex if $\text{dom } f$ is a convex set and if for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{dom } f$, and θ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$, we have

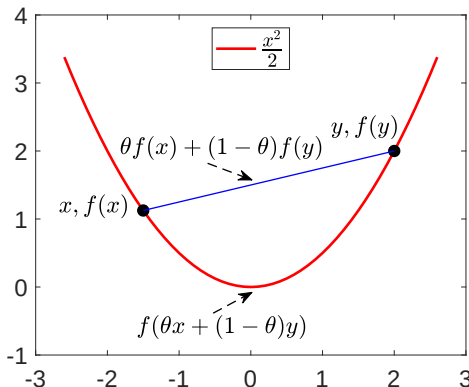
$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$

Convex Functions

Convex Functions

A function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is convex if $\text{dom } f$ is a convex set and if for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{dom } f$, and θ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$, we have

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$



Convex Functions

Convex Functions

A function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is convex if $\text{dom } f$ is a convex set and if for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{dom } f$, and θ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$, we have

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$

Concave Functions

A function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is concave if $\text{dom } f$ is a convex set and if for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{dom } f$, and θ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$, we have

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \geq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$

- f is concave if $-f$ is convex

Examples

■ Examples on $\mathbb{R}$

- Affine: $ax + b$ on $\mathbb{R}$, for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
- Exponential: e^{ax} on $\mathbb{R}$, for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$
- Powers: x^a on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$, for $a \geq 1$ or $a \leq 0$
- Powers of absolute value: $|x|^p$ on $\mathbb{R}$, for $p \geq 1$
- Negative entropy: $x \log x$ on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$

■ Examples on $\mathbb{R}^d$

- Affine function: $\mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x} + b$, for any $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$
- Norm: $\|\mathbf{x}\|_p = (\sum_{i=1}^d |x_i|^p)^{1/p}$, for any $p \geq 1$

First-order Condition

- The Gradient of $f(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \left[\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_d} \right]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

First-order Condition

- The Gradient of $f(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \left[\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_d} \right]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

First-order Condition

Suppose f is differentiable. Then f is convex if and only if $\text{dom } f$ is convex and

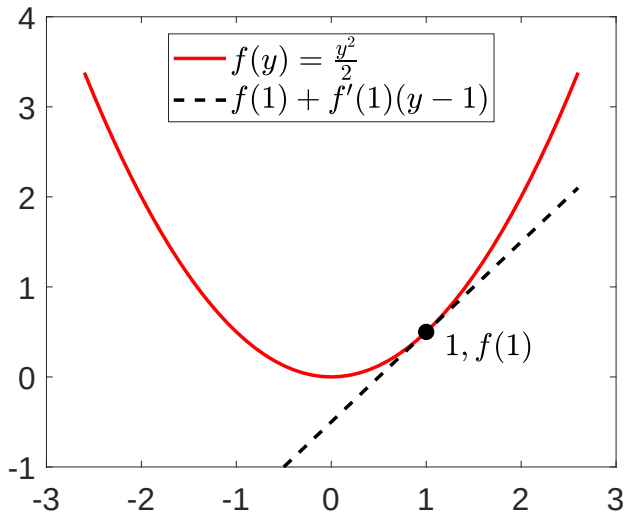
$$f(\mathbf{y}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})$$

holds for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{dom } f$.

- First-order approximation of f is a global underestimator

First-order Condition

■ An Exmple



Second-order Condition

■ The Hessian of $f(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \text{ with } \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

Second-order Condition

■ The Hessian of $f(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \text{ with } \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

Second-order Condition

Suppose f is twice differentiable. Then f is convex if and only if $\text{dom } f$ is convex and its Hessian is positive semidefinite:

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \succeq 0$$

holds for all $\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f$.

Second-order Condition

- The Hessian of $f(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \text{ with } \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

Second-order Condition

Suppose f is twice differentiable. Then f is convex if and only if $\text{dom } f$ is convex and its Hessian is positive semidefinite:

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \succeq 0$$

holds for all $\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f$.

- Quadratic functions

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top A \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x} + c$$

where $A \succeq 0$

Operations that Preserve Convexity

■ Nonnegative Weighted Sum

- If $f_1, \dots, f_n$ are convex and $w_1, \dots, w_n \geq 0$, then

$$f = w_1 f_1 + w_2 f_2 + \dots, w_n f_n$$
 is convex.

■ Composition with Affine Function

- If f is convex, then

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{b}) \text{ is convex.}$$

■ Pointwise Maximum and Supremum

- If $f_1, \dots, f_n$ are convex, then

$$f(x) = \max \{f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)\} \text{ is convex.}$$

- Hinge loss: $\ell(\mathbf{w}) = \max(0, 1 - \mathbf{y}\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{w})$
- If for each $y \in \mathcal{A}$, $f(x, y)$ is convex in x , then the function

$$g(x) = \sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}} f(x, y) \text{ is convex.}$$

Jensen's inequality

■ Basic Inequality

- If f is convex, then for $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$,

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$

■ Extensions

- If f is convex, then

$$f(E[X]) \leq E[f(X)]$$

where X is a random variable

- Examples:

$$(E[X])^2 \leq E[X^2]$$

$$E[\sqrt{X}] \leq \sqrt{E[X]}$$

Convex Optimization Problem

■ Standard Form

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & f_0(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{x} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

- $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n$ are convex
- Equality constraints are affine

Convex Optimization Problem

■ Standard Form

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & f_0(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{x} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

- $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n$ are convex
- Equality constraints are affine

■ Local and Global Optima

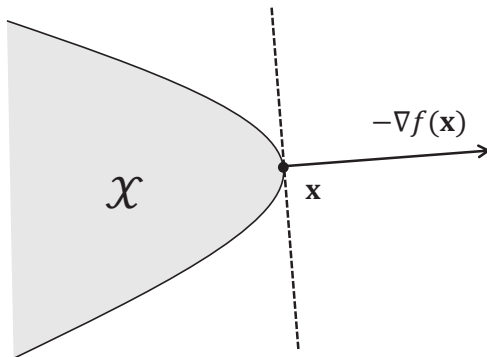
Any locally optimal point of a convex problem is (globally) optimal.

Optimality Criterion for Differentiable f_0

■ Optimality Criterion

- $\mathbf{x}$ is optimal if and only if it is feasible and

$$\nabla f_0(\mathbf{x})^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \text{ for all feasible } \mathbf{y}$$



- Unconstrained: $\mathbf{x}$ is optimal if and only if $\nabla f_0(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

The Conjugate Function

Conjugate Function

The conjugate of function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f} (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x}))$$

- $\text{dom } f^*$

$$\left\{ \mathbf{y} \mid \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f} (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x})) < \infty \right\}$$

- f^* is convex
- Suppose f is differentiable

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}) = \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x}) = - \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^\top (0 - \mathbf{x}) \right]$$

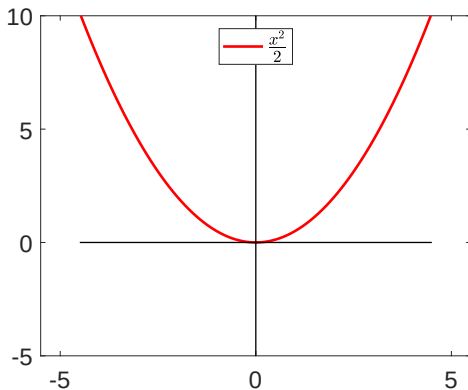
where $\mathbf{y} = \nabla f(\mathbf{x})$

The Conjugate Function

Conjugate Function

The conjugate of function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f} (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x}))$$

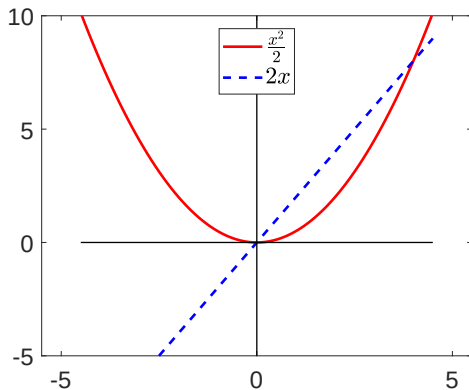


The Conjugate Function

Conjugate Function

The conjugate of function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f} (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x}))$$

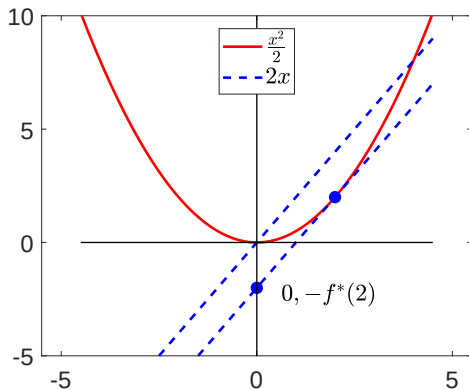


The Conjugate Function

Conjugate Function

The conjugate of function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \text{dom } f} (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x} - f(\mathbf{x}))$$



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Convex Optimization Problems
- 3 Duality**
- 4 Optimization Methods

The Lagrangian

- The Optimization Problem (not necessarily convex)

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} f_0(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\text{s. t. } f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$h_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p$$

- Variable $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, domain $\mathcal{D}$, optimal value p_*

- The Lagrangian $L : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(\mathbf{x})$$

- λ_i is Lagrange multiplier associated with $f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$
- ν_i is Lagrange multiplier associated with $h_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

Lagrange Dual Function

- Lagrange dual function $g : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} L(\mathbf{x}, \lambda, \nu)$$

$$= \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left\{ f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

- g is concave
- Lower Bound Property

- If $\lambda \succeq 0$, then $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p_*$.

$$f_0(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \geq L(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda, \nu) \geq \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} L(\mathbf{x}, \lambda, \nu) = g(\lambda, \nu)$$

The Dual Problem

■ Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\lambda, \nu} \quad & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \lambda \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- The best lower bound on p_*
- A convex optimization problem
- Optimal value d_*

The Dual Problem

■ Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\lambda, \nu} \quad & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \lambda \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- The best lower bound on p_*
- A convex optimization problem
- Optimal value d_*

■ Weak Duality

$$d_* \leq p_*$$

■ Strong Duality

$$d_* = p_*$$

- Doesnot hold in general, but usually holds for convex problems

Complementary Slackness

■ Under Strong Duality

$$f_0(\mathbf{x}_*) = g(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_*, \boldsymbol{\nu}_*) = \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left\{ f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_{*i} h_i(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

$$\leq f_0(\mathbf{x}_*) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_{*i} h_i(\mathbf{x}_*) \leq f_0(\mathbf{x}_*)$$

- $\mathbf{x}_*$ is primal optimal and $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_*, \boldsymbol{\nu}_*)$ is dual optimal

Complementary Slackness

■ Under Strong Duality

$$f_0(\mathbf{x}_*) = g(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_*, \boldsymbol{\nu}_*) = \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left\{ f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_{*i} h_i(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

$$\leq f_0(\mathbf{x}_*) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_{*i} h_i(\mathbf{x}_*) \leq f_0(\mathbf{x}_*)$$

● $\mathbf{x}_*$ is primal optimal and $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}_*, \boldsymbol{\nu}_*)$ is dual optimal

■ Complementary Slackness

$$\lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \lambda_{*i} > 0 \Rightarrow f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) = 0 \\ f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) < 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_{*i} = 0 \end{cases}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

■ Optimality of $\mathbf{x}_*$

$$\mathbf{x}_* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left\{ f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_{*i} h_i(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$$

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions

1 Primal constraints

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(\mathbf{x}) &\leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ h_i(\mathbf{x}) &= 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

2 Dual constraints

$$\lambda \succeq 0$$

3 Complementary Slackness

$$\lambda_{*i} f_i(\mathbf{x}_*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

4 Gradient of Lagrangian with respect to $\mathbf{x}$ vanishes

$$\nabla f_0(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

Implications of KKT Conditions

General Problems

For **any** optimization problem for which strong duality obtains, any pair of primal and dual optimal points must satisfy the KKT conditions.

Implications of KKT Conditions

General Problems

For **any** optimization problem for which strong duality obtains, any pair of primal and dual optimal points must satisfy the KKT conditions.

Convex Optimizations

For any **convex** optimization problem, any points that satisfy the KKT conditions are primal and dual optimal, and have zero duality gap.

Implications of KKT Conditions

General Problems

For **any** optimization problem for which strong duality obtains, any pair of primal and dual optimal points must satisfy the KKT conditions.

Convex Optimizations

For any **convex** optimization problem, any points that satisfy the KKT conditions are primal and dual optimal, and have zero duality gap.

Convex Optimizations

For any **convex** optimization problem for which strong duality obtains, $\mathbf{x}_*$ is optimal if and only if there exist (λ_*, ν_*) that satisfy KKT conditions.

Support Vector Machines I

■ The Optimization Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n \max \left(0, 1 - y_i (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

Support Vector Machines I

■ The Optimization Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n \max(0, 1 - y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b)) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

■ Redefine the Hinge Loss

$$\ell(x) = \max(0, 1 - x)$$

■ Its Conjugate Function

$$\ell^*(y) = \sup_x (yx - \ell(x)) = \begin{cases} y, & -1 \leq y \leq 0 \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Support Vector Machines I

■ The Optimization Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n \max \left(0, 1 - y_i (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

■ Redefine the Hinge Loss

$$\ell(x) = \max(0, 1 - x)$$

■ Its Conjugate Function

$$\ell^*(y) = \sup_x (yx - \ell(x)) = \begin{cases} y, & -1 \leq y \leq 0 \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

■ A General Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell \left(y_i (\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

Support Vector Machines II

■ An Equivalent Form

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & u_i = y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b), \quad i = 1 \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Support Vector Machines II

■ An Equivalent Form

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & u_i = y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b), \quad i = 1 \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

■ The Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i \left(u_i - y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right)$$

Support Vector Machines II

■ An Equivalent Form

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & u_i = y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b), \quad i = 1 \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

■ The Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i \left(u_i - y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right)$$

■ The Lagrange Dual Function

$$g(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \inf_{\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\nu})$$

$$= \inf_{\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(u_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i \left(u_i - y_i(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b) \right)$$

Support Vector Machines III

■ The Lagrange Dual Function

$g(\nu)$

$$= \inf_{\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}} \sum_{i=1}^n (\ell(u_i) + \nu_i u_i) + \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \mathbf{w}^\top \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \right) - b \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i$$

Support Vector Machines III

■ The Lagrange Dual Function

$$g(\boldsymbol{\nu})$$

$$= \inf_{\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}} \sum_{i=1}^n (\ell(u_i) + \nu_i u_i) + \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \mathbf{w}^\top \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \right) - b \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i$$

■ Minimizing $\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}$

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{u_i} (\ell(u_i) + \nu_i u_i) &= - \sup_{u_i} (-\nu_i u_i - \ell(u_i)) \\ &= -\ell^*(-\nu_i) = \nu_i, \text{ if } 0 \leq \nu_i \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = \lambda \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i$$

$$\nabla_b \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\nu}) = - \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i = 0$$

Support Vector Machines IV

■ The Lagrange Dual Function

$$g(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_i \nu_j \mathbf{y}_i \mathbf{y}_j^{\top} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_j$$

Support Vector Machines IV

■ The Lagrange Dual Function

$$g(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_i \nu_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_j$$

■ The Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\boldsymbol{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_i \nu_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_j \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & 0 \leq \nu_i \leq 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i y_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Support Vector Machines V

■ KKT Conditions

- $(\mathbf{w}_*, b_*, \mathbf{u}_*)$ and ν_* are primal and dual solutions

$$u_{*i} = y_i(\mathbf{w}_*^\top \mathbf{x}_i + b_*)$$

$$0 \leq \nu_{*i} \leq 1$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \nu_{*i} y_i = 0$$

$$\mathbf{w}_* = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \nu_{*i} y_i \mathbf{x}_i$$

$$u_{*i} = \operatorname{argmin}_{u_i} (\ell(u_i) + \nu_{*i} u_i) = 1 \text{ if } 0 < \nu_{*i} < 1$$

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Convex Optimization Problems
- 3 Duality
- 4 Optimization Methods

Performance Measure

■ The Optimization Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}} f(\mathbf{w})$$

- $f(\cdot)$ is a convex function
- $\mathcal{W}$ is a convex domain

Performance Measure

■ The Optimization Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}} f(\mathbf{w})$$

- $f(\cdot)$ is a convex function
- $\mathcal{W}$ is a convex domain

■ Convergence Rate

- After T iterations, the gap between objectives

$$f(\mathbf{w}_T) - f(\mathbf{w}_*) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}\right), O\left(\frac{1}{T}\right), O\left(\frac{1}{T^2}\right), O\left(\frac{1}{\alpha^T}\right)$$

■ Iteration Complexity

- To ensure $f(\mathbf{w}_T) - f(\mathbf{w}_*) \leq \epsilon$, the order of T

$$T = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}\right), \Omega\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right), \Omega\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right), \Omega\left(\log \frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)$$

Analytical Properties

■ Lipschitz Continuous

$$\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq G, \text{ or } \|\partial f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq G$$

■ Strongly Convex

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \succeq \mu I$$

$$\langle \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \rangle \geq \mu \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2$$

$$f(\mathbf{y}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \nabla f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x} \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y}) - \theta(1 - \theta) \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2$$

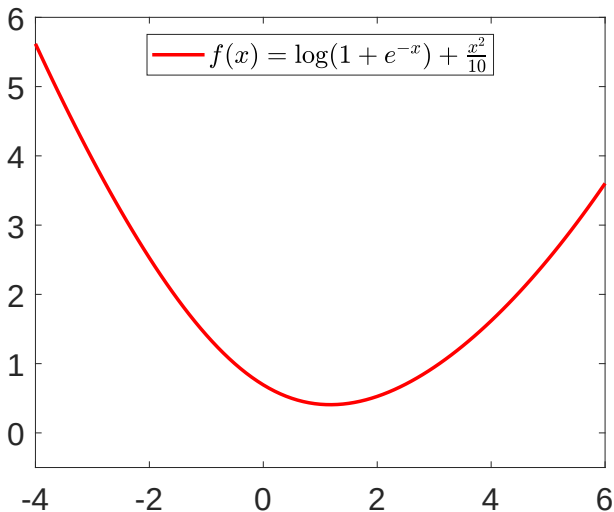
■ Smooth

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \preceq L I$$

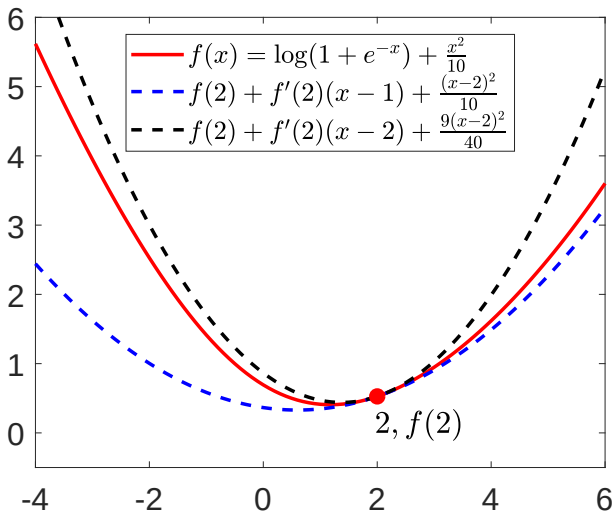
$$\langle \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \rangle \leq L \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2$$

$$f(\mathbf{y}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \nabla f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x} \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

An Example



An Example



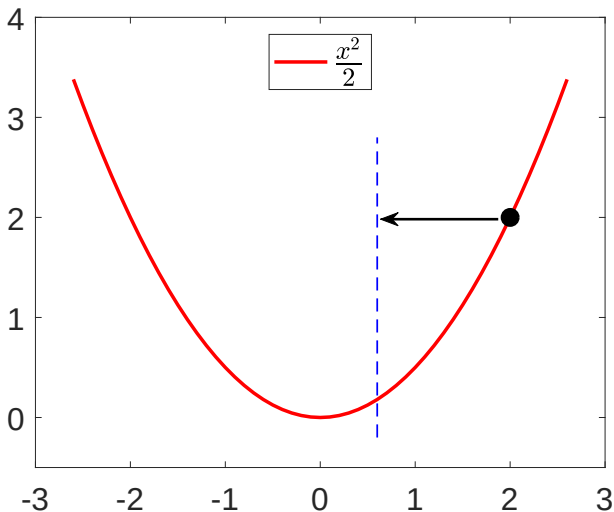
Existing Results

■ Convergence Rate

Lipschitz Continuous	Strongly Convex	Smooth	Smooth Strongly Convex
GD $O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}\right)$	EGD/SGD $_{\alpha}$ $O\left(\frac{1}{T}\right)$	AGD $O\left(\frac{1}{T^2}\right)$	GD/AGD $O\left(\frac{1}{\alpha T}\right)$

- GD—Gradient Descent [Nesterov, 2004]
- EGD—Epoch Gradient Descent [Hazan and Kale, 2011]
- SGD $_{\alpha}$ —SGD with α -suffix Averaging [Rakhlin et al., 2012]
- AGD—Nesterov's Accelerated Gradient Descent
[Nesterov, 2005, Nesterov, 2007, Tseng, 2008]

Gradient Descent



Gradient Descent with Projection

■ The Problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}} f(\mathbf{w})$$

for $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**

$$\mathbf{w}'_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta_t \nabla f(\mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \Pi_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbf{w}'_{t+1})$$

end for

return $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_T = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{w}_t$

■ The Projection Operator

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbf{y}) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2$$

The Convergence Rate I

For any $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f(\mathbf{w}_t) - f(\mathbf{w}) \\
 & \leq \langle \nabla f(\mathbf{w}_t), \mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w} \rangle \\
 & = \frac{1}{\eta_t} \langle \mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}'_{t+1}, \mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w} \rangle \\
 & = \frac{1}{2\eta_t} \left(\|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{w}'_{t+1} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}'_{t+1}\|_2^2 \right) \\
 & = \frac{1}{2\eta_t} \left(\|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{w}'_{t+1} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \right) + \frac{\eta_t}{2} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{w}_t)\|_2^2 \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2\eta_t} \left(\|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{w}_{t+1} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \right) + \frac{\eta_t}{2} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{w}_t)\|_2^2
 \end{aligned}$$

To simplify the above inequality, we assume

$$\eta_t = \eta, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{w})\|_2 \leq G, \forall \mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}, \text{ and } \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2 \leq D, \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{W}$$

The Convergence Rate II

Then, we have

$$f(\mathbf{w}_t) - f(\mathbf{w}) \leq \frac{1}{2\eta} \left(\|\mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{w}_{t+1} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \right) + \frac{\eta}{2} G^2$$

By adding the inequalities of all iterations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{t=1}^T f(\mathbf{w}_t) - Tf(\mathbf{w}) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2\eta} \left(\|\mathbf{w}_1 - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{w}_{T+1} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \right) + \frac{\eta T}{2} G^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2\eta} \|\mathbf{w}_1 - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \frac{\eta T}{2} G^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2\eta} D^2 + \frac{\eta T}{2} G^2 = GD\sqrt{T} \end{aligned}$$

where we set

$$\eta = \frac{D}{G\sqrt{T}}$$

The Convergence Rate III

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\bar{\mathbf{w}}_T) - f(\mathbf{w}) &= f\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{w}_t\right) - f(\mathbf{w}) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(\mathbf{w}_t) - f(\mathbf{w}) \leq \frac{1}{T} GD\sqrt{T} = \frac{GD}{\sqrt{T}} \end{aligned}$$

The Convergence Rate III

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\bar{\mathbf{w}}_T) - f(\mathbf{w}) &= f\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{w}_t\right) - f(\mathbf{w}) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(\mathbf{w}_t) - f(\mathbf{w}) \leq \frac{1}{T} GD\sqrt{T} = \frac{GD}{\sqrt{T}} \end{aligned}$$

■ Limitations

- The step size $\eta = \frac{D}{G\sqrt{T}}$ depends on T
- $f(\bar{\mathbf{w}}_T)$ does not decrease monotonically

Gradients or Subgradients

■ The Logit Loss

$$\ell_i(\mathbf{w}) = \log \left(1 + \exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w}) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \ell_i(\mathbf{w}) &= \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})} \nabla \left(1 + \exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w}) \right) \\ &= \frac{\exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})}{1 + \exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})} \nabla (-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w}) = \frac{\exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})}{1 + \exp(-y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})} - y_i \mathbf{x}_i \end{aligned}$$

■ The Hinge Loss

$$\ell_i(\mathbf{w}) = \max(0, 1 - y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})$$

$$\partial \ell_i(\mathbf{w}) = \begin{cases} -y_i \mathbf{x}_i, & y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w} < 1 \\ 0, & y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w} > 1 \\ \{-\alpha y_i \mathbf{x}_i : \alpha \in [0, 1]\}, & y_i \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w} = 1 \end{cases}$$

Homework

Analyze the smoothness of the following function

$$f(x) = \log(1 + \exp(-x)) + \frac{\lambda}{2}x^2$$

$\Pi_{\mathcal{W}}(\cdot)$ is a nonexpanding operator

$$\|\Pi_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbf{x}) - \Pi_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbf{y})\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2, \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$$

The analysis of varied step size

$$\eta_t = O(1/\sqrt{t})$$

Reference I



Boyd, S. and Vandenberghe, L. (2004).
Convex Optimization.
Cambridge University Press.



Hazan, E. and Kale, S. (2011).
Beyond the regret minimization barrier: an optimal algorithm for stochastic strongly-convex optimization.
In *Proceedings of the 24th Annual Conference on Learning Theory*, pages 421–436.



Nesterov, Y. (2004).
Introductory lectures on convex optimization: a basic course, volume 87 of *Applied optimization*.
Kluwer Academic Publishers.



Nesterov, Y. (2005).
Smooth minimization of non-smooth functions.
Mathematical Programming, 103(1):127–152.



Nesterov, Y. (2007).
Gradient methods for minimizing composite objective function.
Core discussion papers.

Reference II



Rakhlin, A., Shamir, O., and Sridharan, K. (2012).
Making gradient descent optimal for strongly convex stochastic optimization.
In *Proceedings of the 29th International Conference on Machine Learning*, pages
449–456.



Tseng, P. (2008).
On accelerated proximal gradient methods for convex-concave optimization.
Technical report, University of Washington.